

TS *State of Michigan* Conversion on the “Fourth Coast”

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The Maritime Administration (MARAD) training ship *State of Michigan*, furnished to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy (GLMA) of Traverse City, Michigan, arrived at the Marinette Marine Corp. shipbuilding yard in Marinette, Wisconsin, in mid-December to begin a seven-month, \$3.9 million conversion project.

Beating the snow and ice by only a few days, the TS *State of Michigan* and her MARAD/GLMA project team settled in for several months of hurried activity to

transform the former 39-person Navy vessel into a 70-person public nautical schoolship, especially configured to meet the training needs of America's Great Lakes fleet.

When completed, the TS *State of Michigan* will boast newly renovated and expanded stateroom accommodations, new training and administrative spaces, and a reconfigured stern that will immediately distinguish her from the other 17 ships of her type and class. One of

the changes that won't be noticeable from the outside is a completely new wastewater treatment and management system that will allow the vessel to travel the lakes for up to one week with zero wastewater discharge. Finally, a few touches of tradition are being added, including recycled teak caprails and a classic raked pole mast with a yardarm and gaff that replaces what was, frankly, one of the ugliest tripods ever to grace a ship.



The State of Michigan, iced in at Marinette Marine Corp., January 2005. The new Staten Island ferryboat Spirit of America appears just forward of the State of Michigan.

All in all, the converted TS *State of Michigan* promises to be a worthy Great Lakes flagship for many years into the future.



As an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) mission is to strengthen the U.S. maritime transportation system—including infrastructure, industry, and labor—to meet the economic and security needs of the nation. MARAD programs promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced United States merchant marine, sufficient to carry the nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of service as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency. MARAD also seeks to ensure that the United States maintains adequate shipbuilding and repair services, efficient ports, effective intermodal water- and land-transportation systems, and reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency.